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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00648 080438Z

15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 094720
R 080345Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1195

S E C R E T MUSCAT 648

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MU, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO OMAN

REF: MUSCAT 590

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CSAF PERKINS JUNE 5, SUBJECT OF MILITARY "SHOPPING LIST" (REFTEL) CAME UP. PERKINS STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FORMULATE SUCH A LIST, BUT THAT HE HAD RESISTED ON GROUNDS THAT HE DID NOT NEED DIRECT MATERIEL ASSISTANCE. SPECIFICALLY, HE HAD TURNED DOWN SUGGESTION THAT SAF NEEDS A TANK FORCE. RATHER, WHAT HE DOES NEED IS FUNDS FOR WHAT HE TERMED "MORALE-BUILDING EXPENDITURES". HE NOTES THAT INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS CAN BE MADE BETWEEN OMANI POLICE FORCE AND SAF (E.G. 60 PERCENT OF MARRIED POLICE HAVE QUARTERS FOR DEPENDENTS VERSUS 1 PERCENT FOR SAF).

2. DESPITE PERKINS' POSITION ON THESE MATTERS, THE ISSUE OF SAUDI ASSISTANCE WILL BE DECIDED BY THE SULTAN AND OTHER ADVISERS, POSSIBLY DURING QABOOS' VISIT TO RIYADH JUNE 7-8.
ZWEIFEL

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